

Amendments To The Claims

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing Of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition containing a hydroxyl group-containing resin (A), a curing agent (B) and a color pigment (C), a resulting coating film having a lightness index or a L value of 80 or more, the hydroxyl group-containing resin (A) being a hydroxyl group-containing polyester resin (A₂) containing as essential components an alicyclic polybasic acid (a₁) and/or an alicyclic polyhydric alcohol (a₂), other polybasic acid (a₃) and other polyhydric alcohol (a₄), a content of the alicyclic polybasic acid (a₁) and/or the alicyclic polyhydric alcohol (a₃) in the polyester resin (A₂) being in the range of 20 to 70% by weight based on a total solid content of monomers constituting the polyester resin (A₂), the curing agent (B) being a blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B₁) blocked with a pyrazole blocking agent, or a mixture of the blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B₁) with at least one curing agent selected from the group consisting of a blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B₂) blocked with a blocking agent other than the pyrazole blocking agent, a water-dispersible blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B₃) and a melamine resin curing agent (B₄).

Claims 2 to 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B₁) is a blocked polyisocyanate curing agent blocked with 3,5-dimethylpyrazole blocking agent.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein a polyisocyanate constituting the blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B₁) is an aliphatic polyisocyanate or an alicyclic polyisocyanate.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in ~~claim 2~~ claim 1 wherein a polyisocyanate constituting the blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B₂) is an aliphatic polyisocyanate or alicyclic polyisocyanate.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water based intercoat coating composition further contains an extender pigment (D).

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water based intercoat coating composition further contains an urethane emulsion (E).

Claim 11 (Original): A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 10, wherein a content of the urethane emulsion (E) is in the range of 10 to 100 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of a total solid content of the hydroxyl group-containing resin (A) and the curing agent (B).

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A multi-layered coating film formed by successively coating a cationic electrodeposition coating composition, coating a water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 1, optionally curing, and coating a topcoat coating composition by at least one layer.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, the hydroxyl group-containing resin (A) is at least one hydroxyl group-containing resin selected from the group consisting of a hydroxyl group-containing acrylic resin, a hydroxyl group-containing polyester resin, a hydroxyl group-containing polyether resin, a hydroxyl group-containing polycarbonate resin and a hydroxyl group-containing urethane resin.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein the blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B₁) is a blocked polyisocyanate curing agent blocked with 3,5-dimethylpyrazole blocking agent.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 6, wherein a polyisocyanate constituting the blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B₁) is an aliphatic polyisocyanate or an alicyclic polyisocyanate.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 6, wherein a polyisocyanate constituting

the blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B₂) is an aliphatic polyisocyanate or alicyclic polyisocyanate.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein the water based intercoat coating composition further contains an extender pigment (D).

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 9, wherein the water based intercoat coating composition further contains an urethane emulsion (E).

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A multi-layered coating film formed by successively coating a cationic electrodeposition coating composition, coating a water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 11, optionally curing, and coating a topcoat coating composition by at least one layer.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A multi-layered coating film formed by successively coating a cationic electrodeposition coating composition, coating a water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, optionally curing, and coating a topcoat coating composition by at least one layer.